

are a part of the mores by a comparison of some cases of food taboos. Porphyrius, a Christian of Tyre, who lived in the second half of the second century of the Christian era, says that a Phoenician or an Egyptian would sooner eat man's flesh than cow's flesh.<sup>1</sup> A Jew would not eat swine's flesh. A Zoroastrian could not conceive it possible that any one could eat dog's flesh. We do not eat dog's flesh, probably for the same reason that we do not eat cat's or horse's, because the flesh is tough or insipid and we can get better, but some North American Indians thought dog's flesh the very best food. The Banziris, in the French Congo, reserved dog's flesh for men, and they surround meals of it with a solemn ritual. A man must not touch his wife with his finger for a day after such a feast.<sup>2</sup> The inhabitants of Ponape will eat no eels, which "they hold in the greatest horror." The word used by them for eel means "the dreadful one."<sup>3</sup> Dyaks eat snakes, but reject eels.<sup>4</sup> Some Melanesians will not eat eels because they think that there are ghosts in them.<sup>5</sup> South African Bantus abominate fish.<sup>6</sup> Some Canary Islanders ate no fish.<sup>7</sup> Tasmanians would rather starve than eat fish.<sup>8</sup> The Somali will eat no fish, considering it disgraceful to do so.<sup>9</sup> They also reject game and birds.<sup>10</sup> These people who reject eels and fish renounce a food supply which is abundant in their habitat.

354. Food taboos in ethnography. Some Micronesians eat no fowl.<sup>11</sup> Wild Veddahs reject fowl.<sup>12</sup> Tuaregs eat no fish, birds, or eggs.<sup>13</sup> In eastern Africa many tribes loathe eggs and fowl as food. They are as much disgusted to see a white man eat eggs as a white man is to see savages eat offal.<sup>14</sup> Some Australians will not eat pork.<sup>15</sup> Nagas and their neighbors think roast dog a great delicacy. They will eat anything, even an elephant

which has been three days buried, but they abominate milk, and find the smell of tinned lobster too strong.<sup>16</sup> Negroes in the French Congo "have a perfect horror of the idea of drinking milk." <sup>17</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *De Abstinencia*, II, n. <sup>9</sup> Paulitschke, *Ethnog. N.O. Afr.*, I, 155.

<sup>2</sup> Brunache, *Cent. Afr.*, 69. <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 27.

<sup>8</sup> Christian, *Caroline Isl.*, 73. <sup>n</sup> Finsch, *Ethnol. Erfahr.*, III, 53.

\* Perelaer, *Dyaks*, 27. <sup>12</sup> *N. S. Ethnol. Soc.*, II, 304.

<sup>5</sup> Codrington, *Melanesians*, 177. <sup>15</sup> Duveyrier, *Touaregs du Nord*, 401.

<sup>6</sup> Fritsch, *Eingeb. Siidafr.*, 107. <sup>14</sup> Volkens, *Kilimandscharo*, 244.

<sup>7</sup> *JV. S. Amer. Anthropol.*, II, 454. <sup>ie</sup> Smyth, *Victoria*, I, 237.

<sup>8</sup> Ling Roth, *Tasmanians*, 101. <sup>16</sup> JAI, XI, 63\*; XXII, 245.

<sup>17</sup> Kingsley, *West Afr. Studies*, 451.